AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A switch ~~provided with a signaling coupler, the switch~~ comprising:

a coupler accessing signaling channels to transmit signaling messages;

an interpreter ~~to~~ producing~~e~~ a signaling configuration upon receiving ~~a predetermined character string corresponding to~~ an order to send a signaling message, the signaling configuration produced depends~~ing~~ on a type of the signaling channels accessible to the coupler;~~,~~ ~~said coupler comprising~~ and

a receiver for adding a receive flag to a received signaling message,

wherein the order is a predetermined constant character string.

2. (currently amended): The switch according to claim 1, wherein the coupler further comprises :

a detector recognizing whether the received signaling message is addressed to the switch;

a processor processing the signaling message when the switch is a destination for the signaling message~~accordingly~~; and

a translator replacing the receive flag with the predetermined character string ~~if~~ when the switch is not ~~itself~~ the destination for the signaling message.

3. (currently amended): A method of sending a signaling message by a switch, the method comprising ~~the following steps~~:

adding to said signaling message a ~~predetermined character string corresponding to a~~ predetermined send order for said signaling message ~~is added to said signaling message~~, said adding ~~including~~ further comprises the switch receiving ~~a~~ the signaling message in a receiving exchange and adding a receive flag to the signaling message ~~thereto~~; and

interpreting said send order ~~is interpreted~~ in an interpreter of ~~a~~ the switch to produce a signaling configuration of said switch, the signaling configuration produced depend~~sing~~ on a type of signaling channels available to the switch,

wherein the receive flag is a specified constant and the predetermined send order is a specified constant character string.

4. (previously presented): The method according to claim 3, wherein, to add the predetermined character string to the signaling message:

the destination of said signaling message is tested; and

if a destination of the signaling message is different from said receiving exchange, the flag is replaced by said predetermined character string.

5. (previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein said interpreter is configured to process at least one of: an IP protocol, a frame relay protocol, an ATM protocol, a switched X25 protocol, a generic modem protocol and a switched B channel protocol.

6. (previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein said interpreter is one of (a) a microprocessor associated with a program and (b) a working session in a processor running said switch.

7. (currently amended): The ~~method~~ switch of claim 1, wherein said interpreter comprises a circuit configured to process at least one of: an IP protocol, a frame relay protocol, an ATM protocol, a switched X25 protocol, a generic modem protocol and a switched B channel protocol.

8. (currently amended): The ~~method~~ switch of claim 1, wherein said interpreter comprises one of (a) a microprocessor associated with a program and (b) a working session in a processor running said switch.

9. (new): The switch of claim 2, wherein the coupler has a plurality of interfaces, wherein each of said interfaces provides access to one of said channels and wherein when a plurality of signaling channels are available to transmit said signaling message, a next available signaling channel is selected in a chronological order and the signaling message is configured to produce the signaling configuration for the next available signaling channel.

10. (new): The switch according to claim 9, wherein the predetermined constant character string is remains unchanged regardless of a type of the available signaling channels.

11. (new): The switch of claim 2, wherein when the signaling message is received by the switch, the receiver adds a receive flag and the detector checks the signaling message with the receive flag to determine whether the switch is a designated destination for the signaling message.

12. (new): The switch of claim 2, wherein when the switch is not the destination, the translator replaces the receive flag with the predetermined constant character string regardless of the destination for the signaling message.

13. (new): The switch according to claim 12, wherein when the switch is not the destination, the translator replaces the receive flag with the predetermined constant character string regardless of the signaling configuration of said signaling message.